

Application No. 10/720,407

Docket No.: 20022/39780

REMARKS

The official action dated August 31, 2005, sets forth an election requirement among the following allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

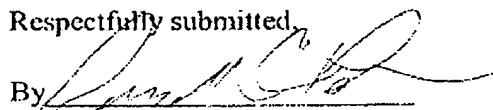
Group I, the species of a package of tobacco articles as shown in Figures 1-5; and
Group II, the species of a package of tobacco articles as shown in Figure 6.

In order to comply with the election requirement, the applicants hereby elect to prosecute Group I, corresponding to claims 1-11 and 17-21.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 13-2855, under Order No. 20022/39780, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: September 28, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Russell C. Petersen

Registration No.: 53,457
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 6300
Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6357
(312) 474-6300
Attorney for Applicant